

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1 through 18 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. We have amended the claims to address the Examiner's concerns.

We have further amended our claims to recite a system for monitoring blood pressure featuring an optical sensor, adapted to be worn on a patient's finger, which includes a light source that generates optical radiation and a photodetector that measures the optical radiation after it irradiates the patient to generate an optical waveform. A blood pressure monitor, adapted to be worn on the patient's wrist, connects through a cable to the optical sensor and includes a microprocessor operating an algorithm that processes the optical waveform to continually determine blood pressure information. A software system, operating on an external computer, receives blood pressure information from monitor that is transmitted via a wireless interface. A database, operating on the external computer, receives and stores the blood pressure information. A web services interface, operating on the same external computer, responds to a request from a secondary software system and retrieves the blood pressure information from the database.

Support for these amendments is found throughout our specification, particularly in Fig. 1 and the text in Paragraphs [0022], [0029], and [0033] – [0038].

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because it recites subject matter for which there is insufficient antecedent basis. We have canceled this claim.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0198473 to Kumar et al. (a/k/a/ Kumar). The Examiner also rejected claims 2 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar as applied to claims 1 and 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0000522 to Lynn et al. (a/k/a/ Lynn) and U.S. Application Publication 2003/0172127 to Northrup et al. (a/k/a Northrup). We address these rejections below.

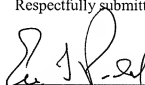
Kumar describes a generic, cuff-based blood pressure monitor that is far removed from the claimed system, which features a finger-worn optical sensor and wrist-worn processor that continuously measures blood pressure without using a conventional cuff. The claimed system sends blood pressure information through wireless and web service-based interfaces to external computer systems. When combined, these systems, unlike that described by Kumar, can effectively and continuously monitor a patient's blood pressure. The Examiner's secondary references, Northrup and Lynn, make no mention of a blood pressure monitor featuring optical, wrist-worn, or finger-worn components, and thus fail to cure Kumar's deficiencies.

For at least the reasons stated above, we believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, and therefore ask the Examiner to allow them to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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